

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Amer et al.  
 U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known Examiner:  
 Filed : Herewith Art Unit:  
 For : **AGGRECAN DEGRADING METTALO PROTEASES**

Atty. Dkt. No.: DM6909B

Honorable Commissioner of  
 Patents and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

**Attn.: Box Patent Applications**

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**Preliminary Amendment**

Please amend this application as follows:

**In the title:**

Delete and substitute therefor --Antibodies to Aggrecan-Degrading Metalloproteases and Diagnostic Methods Using Same.--

**In the specification:**

Page 1, line 1, add --This application is a division of U.S. Serial No. 09/122,126, filed July 24, 1998.--

**In the claims:**

Cancel claims 1-65, without prejudice.

Add new claims 66-73, as follows:

66. (New) An antibody to an ADMP capable of cleaving the Glu<sup>373</sup>-Ala<sup>374</sup> peptide bond of an aggrecan core protein, wherein said ADMP consists of the following domains from the N-terminus to the C-terminus: 1) a propeptide domain containing a furin cleavage site, followed by 2) a metalloprotease domain, followed by 3) a disintegrin-like domain, and 4) a thrombospondin homologous domain.--
- 67. (New) The antibody of claim 66, wherein said ADMP comprises amino acids 1-837 of SEQ.ID NO:2.--
- 68. (New) The antibody of claim 66, wherein said ADMP comprises amino acids 1-930 of SEQ.ID NO:15.--
- 69. (New) The antibody of claim 66 which is a monoclonal antibody.--
- 70. (New) A method of detecting the presence of an ADMP in a biological sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of claim 66.--
- 71. (New) The antibody of claim 66 which is a neopeptide antibody to the C-terminal globular domain of aggrecan.--